

James Bunce Taylor, 92



James Bunce Taylor of Duxbury passed away peacefully at home on April 24, 2017. Born on March 30, 1925, he was the son of the late Grantley Walder Taylor, M.D. and Mary Low (Ryce) Taylor. He leaves his loving wife of 46 years, Susan (Andrews) and his children: Heidi of Fair Haven, NY; Howard (Hal) of Duxbury; Lisa Taylor-Gonzalez and her husband Julian (Jay) Gonzalez of Sherman Oaks, CA; and Katherine (Katie) of Canton. He also leaves his grandchildren: Ashley, Britney and Matthew Taylor of North Andover and Makenna and Kelemn Gonzalez of Sherman Oaks, CA. He also leaves his sister Low Taylor of Brookline and Cuttyhunk. He is also survived by his former wife, Sylvia (Elsaesser) of Sherman Oaks, CA. He was

predeceased by his brother John Taylor, M.D. of Ridgewood, NJ and Quogue, NY.

The Taylor family first came to Duxbury in 1934 when a group of doctors and their families began to summer here; some became year round residents. Jim's father, Grantley W. Taylor, M.D. (a Massachusetts General Hospital surgeon) and his mother, Mary Low, were among them. Jim grew up in Brookline and attended Rivers Country Day School, graduated from Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, NH and attended Harvard University. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and served as sergeant during World War II as gunner and third pilot of a B-24. Later he earned the CLU degree.

His varied career included an early stint in retail at Jordan Marsh. Later, he invented, patented and marketed a device used by car-based salesmen. He was involved in life insurance sales and became field superintendent of agencies at American Life of New York. He was president of Taylor Trading Company, a commodity investment trading company in Boston for a number of years. His last position before retiring was as office manager at Hamilton Cornell in Hingham.

Mr. Taylor and his first wife, Sylvia, and their three children, Heidi, Howard and Lisa, lived in Winchester, and then, during most of their marriage, in Cohasset, a seaside town where sailing, golf and tennis are paramount.

An avid skier, Mr. Taylor met his second wife, Susan, at Cannon Mountain, NH when she accidentally knocked him off a T-bar. Ironically, they both preferred to ski at Mad River Glen in Vermont, but the snow was better in New Hampshire in 1970, so that is where they found each other. Seven months later they married at the Old North Church, with tourists filling the few empty pews, and lived on Commercial Wharf in Boston. They bought and renovated an old school house in Warren, VT for a base to use for skiing at their beloved Mad River Glen. Thirty-five years ago they winterized the family cottage in Duxbury, where they brought up their daughter, Katie. Jim often reflected on his annual happiest day and event of the year: the Christmas Day annual cruise around Duxbury Bay on "Canard," Duxbury Duck No. 25. Even the dog, wearing Katie's fleece jacket with the sleeves rolled up, did not miss this experience. The tradition ended on the day when a hole began leaking too fast for the bilge pump to keep up. They barely made it to shore at Long Point Marine where "Canard" touched bottom in the grass.

Jim was a member of the Konohasset Lodge in Cohasset and later the local Cornerstone Lodge for 51 years. He attained Master Mason degree status.

Jim spent much of his free time volunteering in the community. For many years, he ran the Red Cross blood drives in Duxbury. He served on the board of the Duxbury Council on Aging, the town of Duxbury Cell Tower Committee, and later led the First Parish Church Cell Tower Committee.

Jim was a true gentleman, always there at the right time to help anyone for any reason. He could fix or build anything, and he was generous. His pockets bulged with Werther's candies, which he dispensed during his twice-daily, mile-long walks to Hall's Corner. His pockets were usually empty when he arrived home. This past winter, Jim particularly enjoyed spending several days each week with his friends at Colonial Day Health Center in Weymouth.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held at 11 a.m., July 8, at First Parish Church, 842 Tremont St.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in James Taylor's name may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverly Oaks Road, Waltham, MA, 0245; Kimball Union Academy, 66 Main St., Meriden, NH, 03770; First Parish Church, 842 Tremont St., Duxbury, MA, 02332, or Rivers Country Day School, 333 Winter St., Weston, MA, 02493.